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Wireless Access Coalition

2007 MAY
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Patricia Yeager Jackie Brand Larry Eng John Darby

May 10, 2007

Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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Notice of Written Ex Parte Presentation:

Re: RM No.11355 and WT Docket No. 01-108; DA 07-131

Dear Chairman Martin:

The Wireless Access Coalition (WAC) supports the Federal Communication Commission's decision to abolish the analog requirement for cellular carriers on the current date of February 18, 2008. The WAC believes that people with disabilities, along with consumers in general, will have access to better services using the newer digital technologies. First, analog technology is "spectrally" inefficient, a situation that impedes growth of cellular technology use generally. Second, development of innovative applications and devices is focused in the digital area, and these advancements are needed to provide new forms of communications access for people with disabilities, such as wireless video communications. Such innovations are simply not possible in the analog world. In short, with the range of possibilities digital communications presents, we expect our community to benefit from a greater choice of features, functions and equipment in the digital environment.

In 2000, the WAC urged the FCC to extend the requirements for hearing aid compatibility to digital wireless devices so that millions of Americans with hearing loss would not be relegated to analog service. In response, the FCC issued rules to encourage the wireless industry to improve access for millions of hearing aid users. The wireless industry, through the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions, worked with consumers and experts in hearing loss to resolve the difficult technical issues. The WAC believes the cooperative effort between industry and consumers has enabled millions of hearing aid users today to utilize

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a range of products and services available only through digital technologies. Therefore, the WAC strongly urges the FCC to eliminate the analog requirement for cellular carriers on the current date of February 18, 2008

Pursuant to section 1.1.206(b) (1) of the Commission's rules, an electronic copy of this letter is being filed for inclusion in the above-referenced docket. Please direct any questions regarding this filing to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Patricia Yeager 

Patricia Yeager
Founder
Wireless Access Coalition

Copies:

Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
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Cathleen Massey
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